

Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Nixon,

The Cable Advisory Committee of Groton would like to register its strong opposition to a petition (CTV 06-1) before the DTE filed by Verizon on March 16, 2006.

The petition in question proposes changes to established rules for initial cable licensing, greatly reducing the time to market for potential service providers. The proposed changes would impose unnecessary hardships on municipalities, to the detriment of cable TV subscribers and non-subscribers alike.

We, in Groton, welcome the prospect of a second licensee. Competition will likely serve our subscribers well. However, we feel strongly that the proposed rule changes would only serve to the advantage of the powerful corporations at the expense of fairness to our limited resources in local government.

Current regulations governing the license process have been effective and we see no need to shorten the process. In fact, our committee recently heard an informal presentation from a Verizon representative on this matter and we are already feeling some pressure from Verizon to amend the time-line to their advantage. The petition in question would only serve to codify their position and allow them to force their timeline on us.

This committee, like most of our counterparts in Massachusetts, is made up of volunteers in service of the residents of our town. As such, we are accountable to those residents. The Massachusetts Cable Division should reject the Verizon petition and allow local officials to continue serving our constituents as we have for decades.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact us if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Groton Cable Advisory Committee

Dorothy Davis
Kathy Harrington

John Ellenberger
Gabriel Nucci

Contact: Gabriel Nucci: 617-699-1790; gnucci@earthlink.net